



# HEALTH CAREER OPTIONS GUIDE

for internationally educated health professionals

## Early Childhood Educator Assistant

This profession is also known as:

- early childhood assistant
- daycare worker
- child care worker
- preschool helper

What is an early childhood educator assistant?

An assistant works with children in childcare, kindergarten and school settings under the supervision of an early childhood educator.

What are the main duties of an early educator assistant?

In this profession, you would:

- Lead young children's activities, tell stories, teach songs and prepare craft materials
- Prepare and serve snacks
- Help children eat, dress and use the toilet
- Write down observations about the children in class for your supervisors
- Discuss children's progress and challenges at staff meetings
- Help supervisors keep records.
- Maintain and clean daycare equipment.



What personal characteristics or desired traits should I have for this profession?

You need:

- To enjoy working with children, and be able to comfort them when necessary
- Knowledge of child development, health, safety and nutrition to ensure the wellbeing of children under your care
- Strong communication skills to relate well to children, their parents or guardians, and your co-workers
- To be creative, organized, and able to plan curriculum
- Patience, and a keen eye for any potential behavioural concerns
- A good level of physical fitness to lift children and childcare equipment
- For some jobs, you may need education or experience in caring for children with special needs (physical and/or intellectual disabilities)

Where do Early Childhood Educator Assistants Work?

They work in public daycare centers or community centers. Other employers include large private businesses, religious organizations, hospitals and family resource centres. You could work in a home-based daycare.

### What are typical work conditions?

- Varied hours with possible shift work.
- May need to stand or walk for long periods.
- Duties vary depending on the age of the children i.e. caring for a group of 0-3 year olds can be quite different from a group of 4-6 year olds.
- Child care workers often work in teams to share basic tasks, such as cleaning or food preparation.

### What qualifications do I need?

- Completion of secondary school is required
- Experience in childcare is required
- Knowledge of child abuse theory
- Emergency first aid, CPR training and/or crisis intervention training
- Completion of an early childhood education assistant certificate program or post-secondary courses in early childhood education may be required.
- Criminal record and vulnerable sector check may be required



### What communication skills do I need?

As an early childhood educator assistant, you:

- Must be able to communicate effectively in person with children, parents and co-workers
- Must be able to read books in English (or French) to children and teach them basic reading and writing skills
- Must be able to keep notes of observations about children
- It can be an asset to know 2 or more languages

For a full list of the essential skills you may need, visit:

[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es\\_view\\_profile-eng.do?prof\\_id=289&lang=eng](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/es_view_profile-eng.do?prof_id=289&lang=eng)

### What wage can I expect for this work?

Average Canadian hourly wage **Low** 11.00 **Median** 17.35 **High** 25.00

[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI\\_report\\_bynoc.do?noc=4214&reportOption=wage](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=4214&reportOption=wage)

Career Outlook

[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI\\_report\\_bynoc.do?noc=4214&reportOption=outlook](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/LMI_report_bynoc.do?noc=4214&reportOption=outlook)

### Are there opportunities for advancement?

Progression to senior positions, such as daycare supervisor, is possible with several years of experience or further education to advanced Early Childhood Education qualification levels.

### Learn more about this profession by viewing these sites.

- National Occupation Code: 4214  
The government of Canada has given a code to each occupation/profession in Canada. You can find more information about college and vocational instructors on government sites by using this code <http://www30.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC/english/NOC/2006/Profile.aspx?val=1&val1=4214>

- Self Assessment Readiness Tool™ for Early Childhood Development Specialist  
View this tool to learn more about the requirements you may need to work in this field  
[www.assesshealthcareers.ca](http://www.assesshealthcareers.ca)

## References

- National Occupational Classification, 2011 (NOC 4214) 10/4/16  
<http://www.workopolis.com/jobsearch/early-childhood-educator-assistant-jobs>  
[http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job\\_search\\_results.do?searchstring=4214&action=Search](http://www.jobbank.gc.ca/job_search_results.do?searchstring=4214&action=Search)